

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A backlight device comprising at least a light source, a light guide plate and a reflector wherein

the light guide plate further provides an entry face into which light from the light source is incident, a lower face substantially perpendicular to the entry face and that opposes the reflector, and an upper face that opposes the lower face, and

reflective elements that are capable of reflecting such that light is emitted from the lower face toward the reflector are disposed on the upper face of the light guide plate.

2. (Currently amended) A backlight device comprising at least a light guide plate and a reflector wherein

the light guide plate further provides an entry face into which light from a light source is incident, a lower face substantially perpendicular to the entry face and that opposes the reflector, and an upper face that opposes the lower face, and

when the luminance representing the luminance of light from an exit face of the backlight device that reaches the maximum at angle θ max is A, the luminance B of light emitted from the light guide plate lower face fulfills the relational expression $B \geq 0.25A$,
wherein the angle θ is the output angle of light emitted from the upper face formed between the output light ray and the normal of the upper face.

3. (Original) The backlight device according to claim 2 wherein reflective elements that are capable of reflecting such that light is emitted from the lower face toward the reflector are disposed on the upper face of the light guide plate.

4. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 1 wherein the reflective elements are formed as an integrated body with the light guide plate.

5. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 1 wherein the reflector has reflective grooves disposed on the surface thereof that reflect light emitted from the lower face of the light guide plate to the light guide plate side.

6. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 1 wherein the reflector has a metallic film disposed on the surface thereof.

7. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 1 wherein the light guide plate is comprised of polymethyl methacrylate, a polyolefin resin, polycarbonate or a compound of these.

8. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 1 wherein the distance between the upper face and the lower face of the light guide plate is 0.3-3.0 mm.

9. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 1 wherein the reflective elements are formed by disposing a plurality of V-shaped grooves on the upper face of the light guide plate substantially parallel to the entry face.

10. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 9 wherein the reflective elements comprise:

a first face that is inclined toward the side of the light guide plate closest to the light source viewed from inside the light guide plate and

a second face that is inclined toward the face opposite the light source viewed from inside the light guide plate, and

an angle θ_1 formed between the first face and the upper face is $0.2-5^\circ$ and an angle θ_2 formed between the second face and the upper face is not more than 90° .

11. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 1 wherein an anisotropic diffusion pattern is formed as an integrated body with the lower face of the light guide plate.

12. (Original) The backlight device according to claim 11 wherein the anisotropic diffusion pattern is a surface relief hologram.

13. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 1 wherein an optical sheet that deflects light emitted from the light guide plate so as to approach traveling direction of light to the direction normal to the upper face of the light guide plate is disposed in a position opposing the upper face of the light guide plate.

14. (Currently amended) A light guide plate used in a backlight device comprising at least a light source, a light guide plate and a reflector wherein the light guide plate further provides an entry face into which light from the light source is incident, a lower face substantially perpendicular to the entry face and that opposes the reflector, and an upper face that opposes the lower face, and when the luminance representing the luminance of light from an exit face of the backlight device that reaches the maximum at angle θ max is A, the luminance B of light emitted from the light guide plate lower face fulfills the relational expression $B \geq 0.25A$, wherein the angle θ is the output angle of light emitted from the upper face formed between the output light ray and the normal of the upper face.

15. (Original) The light guide plate according to claim 14 wherein reflective elements that are capable of reflecting such that light is emitted from the lower face toward the reflector are disposed on the upper face.

16. (Original) The light guide plate according to claim 14 wherein the reflective elements are formed as an integrated body with the light guide plate.

17. (Previously presented) The light guide plate according to 14 wherein the light guide plate is comprised of polymethyl methacrylate, a polyolefin resin, polycarbonate or a compound of these.

18. (Original) The light guide plate according to claim 14 wherein the distance between the upper face and the lower face is 0.3-3.0 mm.

19. (Original) The light guide plate according to claim 14 wherein an anisotropic diffusion pattern is formed as an integrated body with the lower face.

20. (Original) The light guide plate according to claim 14 wherein the anisotropic diffusion pattern is a surface relief hologram.

21. (Previously presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising a backlight device using the light guide plate according to claim 14 and liquid crystal display elements illuminated by this backlight device.

22. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 2 wherein the reflective elements are formed as an integrated body with the light guide plate.

23. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 2 wherein the reflector has reflective grooves disposed on the surface thereof that reflect light emitted from the lower face of the light guide plate to the light guide plate side.

24. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 2 wherein the reflector has a metallic film disposed on the surface thereof.

25. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 2 wherein the light guide plate is comprised of polymethyl methacrylate, a polyolefin resin, polycarbonate or a compound of these.

26. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 2 wherein the distance between the upper face and the lower face of the light guide plate is 0.3-3.0 mm.

27. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 2 wherein the reflective elements are formed by disposing a plurality of V-shaped grooves on the upper face of the light guide plate substantially parallel to the entry face.

28. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 27 wherein

the reflective elements comprise:

a first face that is inclined toward the side of the light guide plate closest to the light source viewed from inside the light guide plate and

a second face that is inclined toward the face opposite the light source viewed from inside the light guide plate, and

an angle θ_1 formed between the first face and the upper face is $0.2-5^\circ$ and an angle θ_2 formed between the second face and the upper face is not more than 90° .

29. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 2 wherein an anisotropic diffusion pattern is formed as an integrated body with the lower face of the light guide plate.

30. (Previously presented) The backlight device according to claim 2 wherein an optical sheet that deflects light emitted from the light guide plate so as to approach traveling direction of light to the direction normal to the upper face of the light guide plate is disposed in a position opposing the upper face of the light guide plate.